



Embassy of the United States of America

P.O. Box 199
Mbabane, Swaziland

5 February, 1987
MMB - 7003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau -- January 1987

I. GENERAL

A. After several conferences with embassy officers and a number of messages to coordinate the changeover, the embassy GSO finally received authority to take over responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the Bureau staff houses. This was mandated by an FBO ruling that it had responsibility for all government-owned buildings overseas. The first order of business is to resume the delayed upgrades to the new editor's house. That work is now under the direction of the embassy GSO and still awaiting funding from FBO.

B. The dollar-emalangení (which is tied to the rand) exchange rate continued its steady decline during the month. By the end of January it had dipped below two emalangení to the dollar at local banks, although the official rate hovered just above 2 to 1. In the last 6 months the dollar has lost 25 percent of its value against the emalangení.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In his address opening the South African parliament on 30 January, Prime Minister P.W. Botha ended months of speculation by announcing that elections to the white House of Assembly would be held on 6 May. He also reaffirmed the need to continue the current emergency regulations and warned internal and external opponents, specifically the ANC, that the state would not hesitate "to act decisively against them."

2. South Africa reacted strongly to major U.S. policy statements during the month. In response to a speech by Secretary of State Shultz during a trip to Nairobi, RSA Foreign Minister Pik Botha accused Shultz of trying to draw attention away from an inconsistent U.S. foreign policy by attacking South Africa. Later in the month, the U.S. visit by ANC leader Oliver Tambo drew further reactions from Mr. Botha, who called the Shultz-Tambo meeting "ill-advised" but expressed satisfaction that Shultz had condemned the ANC policy of violence. The commentaries in the RSA media played up the conservative opposition in the United States to the Tambo visit.

3. The reaction from other southern African countries to the Shultz-Tembo talks was quite different. Both Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia praised the United States for holding the meetings, but criticized Shultz for demanding that the ANC renounce violence.

4. An advertisement in several South African newspapers on 8 January, which called for the release of Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of the ANC, resulted in a police restriction order forbidding publication of any information about unlawful organizations. The order was challenged successfully in court by two newspaper groups. But the ruling was based on a technicality, and the next day the RSA government gazetted new regulations granting even broader powers to the commissioner of police.

5. Within the framework of the inquiry into the cause of the plane crash that killed Mozambican President Machel, hearings were held in South Africa, beginning on 20 January, by a panel of experts, which included former astronaut Frank Borman. The other two participants in the investigation, Mozambique and the USSR, refused to take part in the hearings, stating that the investigation of the facts had not been completed. Both claimed that the crash was caused by a mysterious unidentified "decoy beacon" which lured the plane off course, and both issued statements insinuating that South Africa was to blame for the crash. The investigation continues.

B. Lateral Services/Cruising

The Maseru Domestic Service shortwave transmitter returned to the air on 18 January, just in time for the celebrations marking the first anniversary of the military coup in Lesotho.

C. Technical

The new IBM-XT with Bach program has been installed in the Bureau teletype section. The teletype supervisor and editor [] have been debugging the system and conducting training for the teletypists. After some minor initial problems, the equipment is now in regular use, and preferred by the operators over the B-315's.

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III. Administration

Personnel

The Bureau has received a copy of the new embassy Foreign National pay scale based on the wage survey conducted by the State Department team in August 1986. The scale calls for a wage increase of approximately 12 percent and is back dated to 31 August 1986. Pay

scale and survey have been pouched to headquarters for PMCD approval.

Bureau technician [] received a promotion to GS-12 as of 4 January.

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After 6 weeks of filling out forms, calling various departments and officials, and pleading for Embassy assistance, [] phone was finally connected and working as of 30 January.

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IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On 13 January, the Bureau Chief and Embassy GSO officer, duplicating their triumph of late December, won the weekly Mbabane contract bridge tournament.

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Chief, Swaziland Bureau